

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

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DOCUMENT 1-458/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by the European Democratic Group

with request for topical and urgent debate
pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

on the problems affecting commercial relationships
between the United States of America and the European
Community

- A. noting with concern the decisions announced by the US Department of Trade on 11 June concerning, on the one hand, the importation of steel, and on the other restrictions on exports of equipment for the Soviet gas pipeline,
- B. considering that these measures are part of a general climate of confrontation as regards trade between the United States and the EEC and extend to the agricultural and export credits sectors,
- C. considering that the measures announced relating to steel imports will cause grave difficulties for exporters of European steel to the United States, thus very seriously aggravating the already catastrophic situation of the European steel industry,
- D. considering that the EEC has already reduced, and is continuing to reduce, its steel-producing capacity on a wide scale and at the cost of many jobs,
- E. considering that all subsidies by Member States to the steel industry are subject to the prior authorization of the Commission, which approves them only if they conform to its policy of reducing and restructuring this sector, and that these subsidies or aids are of a temporary nature and will not be granted beyond 1985,
- F. noting that the provisional determination of injury on the basis of a 6.2% market share and a fall in export tonnage represents a unilateral extension of established GATT precedents by the U.S. Authorities,
- G. considering that the prohibitions imposed without prior consultation on the European subsidiaries of American firms concerning the sale to the Soviet Union of sophisticated equipment for the gas pipeline imply an extraterritorial extension of American jurisdiction which is contrary to the principles of international law, this being unacceptable to Community countries,
- H. considering that the trade balance of the United States vis-à-vis Europe is greatly in favour of the former, and that a considerable part of American exports to Europe is made up of agricultural products,
1. Deeply regrets any unilateral measures by the U.S.A. or the Community which conflict with the commitments and principles which were reaffirmed at the recent Versailles summit on international trade;
2. Urges a united European reaction to this situation, avoiding individual and random steps by the Member States;
3. Requests that the Community immediately bring the matter of Community steel exports to the U.S.A. before the Special Committee on Steel of the OECD and the Subsidy Committee of GATT, in order to denounce the incompatibility of the American measures with the commitments entered into by these Agreements;
4. Endorses the Council's decision to refer the export subsidy inherent in the 'Disc' to the same GATT Committee, which is an inevitable riposte to recent American actions;
5. Urgently requests the Commission and the Council to take every form of Community action necessary in order to reduce the technological dependence of European firms which lays them open to unacceptable political pressure;
6. Requests the Commission and the Council to make representations to the American authorities regarding the very serious consequences of their attitude, which could lead to a breakdown in the international system of free trade;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the US Ambassador to the European Community.'